

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /070 W

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R 171210Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHEC 6358

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 02672

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,ETRD,EEC,BE

SUBJECT:BELGIAN REACTION TO 1976-77 EC PRICE AGREEMENT

1. MAJOR BELGIAN FARM ORGANIZATIONS REACTED NEGATIVELY TO 1976-77 AGRICULTURAL PRICES. THEY CLAIM NEW PRICES ARE CLOSE TO ORIGINAL COMMISSION PROPOSAL WHICH A NUMBER OF GROUPS INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,THE BELGIAN SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMISSION,THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AND COPA ALL CRITICIZED AS BEING TOO LOW. PRIOR TO LAST COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LAVENS PUBLICLY STATED BELGIAN CABINET HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO ACCEPT A GENERAL INCREASE RANGING BETWEEN 9-9.5 PERCENT. IN ADDITION,SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS FEEL THAT NEWPRICES DO NOT

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ADEQUATELY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT INCREASES IN PRODUCTION COSTS AS

WELL AS SALARIES IN THE NON- AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

2. ALTHOUGH GENERAL REACTION NEGATIVE, COMMENTS SEEM TEMPERED
BY FACT THAT MONETARY COMPENSATORY ADJUSTMENT WILL ONLY REDUCE
PRICE TO BELGIAN FARMERS BY 0.6 PERCENT INSTEAD OF BY 2.0
PERCENT AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY COMMISSION THIS ALSO MAY
ACCOUNT FOR GENERAL SUPPORT OF NEW PRICES GIVEN BY MOA OFFICIAL
DURING DISCUSSION WITH EMB. OFF.
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